supports terrorist activity. He also conveyed India's determination to fight the scourge of cross-border terrorism and protect the lives of the innocent citizens of India.

Indian demand to stop international aid to countries supporting terrorism

270. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made demand that countries supporting terrorism should be barred from any aid and assistance from international aid agencies like World Bank and other institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Yasser Arafat's Office

271. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat, had been put under siege by the Israeli troops during September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any statement condemning the Israeli action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government's stand could be construed as a change in its policy towards the Palestine issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The following statement was issued by the Government of India on 23rd September, 2002 titled "India Expresses Concern At Developments In West Asia":